



FS-12 Has Arrived

The MVC is poised this year to join other states in the use of facial recognition technology to combat driver license fraud. Before that can happen, roughly 18 million photos need to be uploaded from its database into a computer system that will then search for customers with more than one identity or one identity being used by multiple customers. To help prepare the law enforcement community for this year's Operation Facial Scrub and the ensuing regular use of facial recognition technology, the MVC recently hosted a seminar for over 250 partners from all levels of government and other entities that will benefit from the use of this fraud prevention tool. The successes experienced by motor vehicle departments and law enforcement agencies in New York and North Carolina were highlighted. Participants agreed the commitment to inter-agency cooperation now and in the future will help to ensure the state is able to fully realize all the benefits of the scrub and the technology.

MVC Receives National Award

The MVC was honored in October for its efforts to enhance the security of its licensing process. The Coalition for a Secure Driver's License (CSDL) presented Chairman and Chief Administrator Raymond P. Martinez with its National Security Excellence award for three specific achievements related to driver license credentialing. They were:

- The security and integrity of the new Enhanced Digital Driver License (EDDL) issued in May 2011;
- The introduction of fraud prevention measures; and
- The implementation of an effective identity verification process.



Pictured Left to Right: Acting Director of the State Division of Highway Traffic Safety Gary Poedubicky, Chief Martinez, CSDL President Brian Zimmer and Charles McKenna, then-Director of the NJ Office of Homeland Security & Preparedness.

The CSDL is a national non-profit, crime prevention, educational, public charity based in Washington, D.C.

The Wheels on the Bus...

The MVC was proud to participate in the national Passenger Carrier Strike Force event in September by conducting a surprise safety inspection of charter buses traveling in the area of Liberty State Park. At the end of the damp, fall day, 13 charter buses had been checked and five had been removed from the roads.

New Jersey is considered to have one of the top commercial vehicle inspection programs in the country as it takes very seriously the task of trying to reduce the number of crashes and fatalities on the Garden State's busy highways. In 2011, the MVC's mobile inspection team, in conjunction with local and state law enforcement, inspected 6,876 commercial buses in terminals across the state and 1,193 buses along the roadways.

Bakers Basin Expansion Underway

Mercer County customers of the MVC will soon be able to visit a modernized and expanded Bakers Basin facility now that construction to replace the 1950s-era building has begun. More than 125 jobs, including carpentry, electrical, paving and plumbing, will be brought to the Lawrence Township location during the 21-month project. Like other MVC projects, that's more than 100 individuals who are able to contribute to the local economy by eating, shopping and buying gas locally. Once completed, the new agency, which is slated to open later this year on the same state-owned site as the existing agency, will be the largest of all the super agencies at more than 12,000 square feet.



Investigative Partnerships Lead to 40 Indictments

Cooperative investigations by the MVC, the State Police and the Division of Criminal Justice led to the indictment of 40 people in December for their participation in criminal rings that illegally sold New Jersey digital driver licenses at five different motor vehicle agencies. The defendants allegedly conspired in a plan to have brokers and MVC clerks sell licenses to customers who did not have the required 6-points of identification. In some cases, the customers, who were foreign nationals, did not qualify for a license because they were in the country illegally. In other cases, they lacked the required documentation. The customers paid between \$2,000—\$7,000 per license or license renewal. The cases involved MVC clerks at the Lodi, East Orange, Edison, Jersey City and North Bergen motor vehicle agencies.

Shoppers Urged to Keep Eyes on the Road

Holiday shoppers at the Bridgewater Commons Mall were urged to spend less time checking their lists twice and more time focusing on the road at a December event that highlighted the dangers of distracted driving. The MVC crafted and hosted a fun and interactive booth complete with a NJ State Police Trooper conducting simulated sobriety tests. Those that were brave enough to come to the booth were asked to tackle a video driving game while wearing vision impairing goggles and text messaging while "driving." A survey released in the fall by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) showed that not only do people tend to answer the phone and keep driving, but almost half of the people polled (45 percent) hold the phone in their hand while driving. In 2010, nearly one in every 100 car drivers was found at any given time to be texting, emailing, surfing the Web or using some sort of hand-held device, the NHTSA study said. These activities were up 50 percent from the previous year.

